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(54) Safety syringe

(57) A safety syringe has a retaining device (110) formed on a front end of the barrel (1), multiple bosses (32) formed on the needle hub (3) to rotatably correspond to the retaining device, multiple recesses (35) defined inside the needle hub and multiple inclined teeth

(24) formed on the plunger (2) to correspond to the recesses, such that the engagement between the retaining device and the bosses of the needle hub is able to be released by the rotational movement of the plunger together with the needle hub due to the combination of the inclined teeth and the recesses.

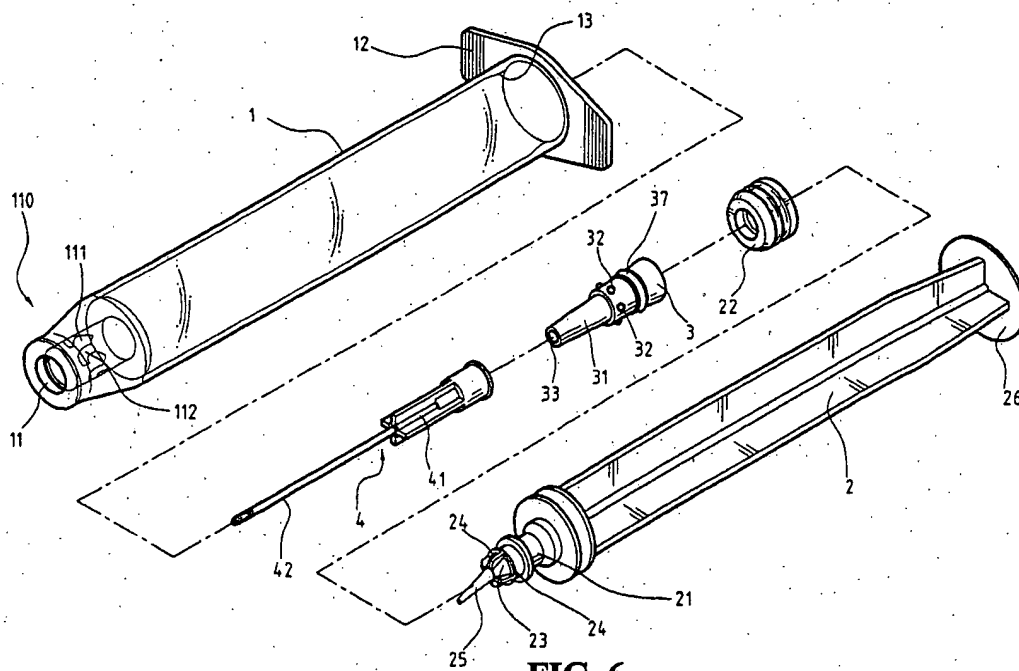


FIG. 6

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Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a syringe, and more particularly to a safety syringe, which has a ratchet device formed on the needle hub and an annular inclined teeth formed on one end of the plunger, such that when the hollow barrel is pushed toward the needle hub, the engagement between the ratchet device and the inclined teeth is able to pull the needle hub together with the needle inside the barrel when the plunger is pulled backward to prevent people from being punctured by the used needle.

2. Description of Related Art

[0002] A plastic cap is always mounted on the hollow barrel of a syringe to cover the needle to keep people from being punctured by the used needle. However, because the user must hold the conventional cap when he or she puts the cap onto the hollow barrel, the user is easily punctured by the needle. In addition, the used needle must be destroyed by melting or burning to prevent the spread of disease. However, hazardous gas will form when the needle with the plastic cap and needle hub is melted or burned.

[0003] In another conventional embodiment, a safety device is formed with the syringe to prevent the user from being punctured. Clamps are formed on the needle hub and the plunger of the syringe. When the plunger is fully pushed into the hollow barrel of the syringe, the clamps will engage with each other. The needle hub with the needle will release from and be pulled fully into the barrel when the plunger is pulled back. The used needle will be fully enclosed and held in the hollow barrel to keep the needle from touching or puncturing anyone.

[0004] However, a specific mold is required to form the clamps. The cost for manufacturing the syringe with the conventional safety device is expensive. In addition, because the entire syringe including the hollow barrel, plunger and the hub must be melted or burned with the needle, hazardous gas is still generated.

[0005] In order to reduce the fabrication cost, the market focuses on the development to introduce an improved syringe to pull the used needle inside the barrel. With reference to Fig. 1, a conventional safety syringe comprises a hollow barrel (10), a plunger (20), a needle hub (30) and a needle (40).

[0006] The needle hub (30) defines a receiving hole (301) in a rear end of the needle hub (30) and a shoulder (302) is formed inside the receiving hole (301). The plunger (20) has a conical head (201) formed on a front end of the plunger (20) to correspond to the receiving hole (301). With this arrangement, when the plunger (20) is moving inside the barrel (10) toward the needle

hub (30) and eventually engages with the needle hub (30), the conical head (201) will have an interference fit inside the receiving hole (301). Because the formation of the shoulder (302), the conical head (201) is secured inside the receiving hole (301) after the plunger (20) is pushed all the way to the end of the hollow barrel (10), such that when the plunger (20) is pulled backward inside the barrel (10), the needle hub (30) together with the needle (40) is able to be pulled inside the barrel (10) simultaneously, as shown in Fig. 2.

[0007] However, to facilitate the needle hub (30) to be pulled inside the barrel (10), the engagement between the needle hub (30) and the barrel (10) should be loose otherwise the friction between the needle hub (30) and an inner periphery of the barrel (10) will overcome the connection between the plunger (20) and the needle hub (30) and the needle hub (30) can not be pulled back into the barrel (10) successfully. In the mean time, if the engagement between the needle hub (30) and the barrel (10) is loose, the solution inside the barrel will have a leak and the injection can not be successful. Further, when the needle (40) is inserted into a container (50) through the cork (51), the needle hub (30) may have displacement in opposite directions in the barrel (10). When the needle hub (30) moves forward, the engagement between the conical head (201) and the shoulder (302) can not be combined securely with each other. When the needle hub (30) moves backward in the barrel (10), a premature engagement between the shoulder (302) and the conical head (201) causes an increase in the remaining solution in the barrel (10).

[0008] However, if the engagement between the needle hub (30) and the barrel (10) is increased, the force required to pull the needle hub (30) together with the needle (40) back to the barrel (10) is also increased, which causes an extra burden to the users.

[0009] With reference to Fig. 5, whether reducing the diameter of the receiving hole (301) or increasing the diameter of the conical head (201) to increase the engagement force between the needle hub (30) and the barrel (10) will inevitably increase the difficulty of inserting the conical head (201) into the receiving hole (301) and this is the last thing that the user wants to see.

[0010] Another disadvantage of this conventional syringe is that when a user is using a syringe, the user normally will eject the air inside the barrel (10) out of the barrel, which often leads to the engagement between the conical head (201) and the shoulder (302) and consequently the user will have to throw away the unused syringe just because the premature engagement between the conical head (201) and the shoulder (302).

[0011] A further disadvantage of the conventional syringe is that there is no positioning device provided for the needle (40) when being pulled back into the barrel (10), such that the needle (40) may move laterally. Therefore, when the plunger pushes forward into the barrel (10), if the inclined angle of the needle (40) is not enough, the needle (40) may still extend out of the barrel

(10) from the outlet (not numbered or shown) of the barrel (10). Still, if the barrel (10) is facing the ground, due to the gravity effect, the needle (40) may extend out of the barrel (10) as well, which causes accidental injury to the user.

[0012] To overcome the shortcomings, the present invention intends to provide an improved safety syringe to mitigate or obviate the aforementioned problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0013] The primary objective of the invention is to provide a syringe enabling to release the limitation of the barrel to the needle hub so that the needle hub with the needle is able to be pulled backward into the barrel easily.

[0014] Another objective of the invention is to provide a syringe that is able to provide a seal to the solution inside the barrel by the engagement between the needle hub and the barrel, such that there is no leak even though the needle hub is slidably engaged with the barrel.

[0015] Still, another objective of the invention is to provide an improved syringe with a ratchet device formed on one end of the needle hub and inclined teeth formed on one end of the plunger to correspond to the ratchet device of the needle hub, such that the engagement between the ratchet device and the inclined teeth will facilitate the retraction of the needle hub together with the needle back into the barrel.

[0016] A further objective of the present invention is to provide a safety syringe whose needle hub has a conical front end, multiple bosses formed on a periphery of the front end to correspond to the troughs of the barrel, an axially defined hole, a receiving hole defined to communicate with the hole, multiple recesses defined in a periphery of the receiving hole to correspond to the inclined teeth and a shoulder defined in the periphery of the receiving hole and above the recesses to correspond to the conical head of the plunger. With such an arrangement, the needle hub is securely engaged with the plunger after the plunger is pushed to the end of the barrel and engaged with the needle hub, so that no medical resource is wasted.

[0017] A still further objective of the present invention is to provide a safety syringe having a conical head and a shoulder corresponding to the conical head. Thus, even when the paramedic personnel mistakenly pushes the plunger to engage the plunger to the needle hub, as long as the personnel is not rotating the plunger, the personnel can still pull out the plunger to disengage with the needle hub because the actuation of the ratchet device needs the personnel to rotate the plunger.

[0018] Other objects, advantages and novel features of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019]

- 5 Fig. 1 is a cross sectional view of a conventional syringe;
 Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view of the syringe of Fig. 1, wherein the needle hub is pulled back into the barrel;
 10 Fig. 3 is a schematic view showing that the needle hub together with the needle is pushed backward into the barrel due to the loose connection between the needle hub and the barrel;
 15 Figs. 4 and 5 are cross sectional views showing that the configuration of the conical head or the receiving hole is changed to increase the connection between the barrel and the needle hub;
 Fig. 6 is an exploded perspective view of a syringe in accordance with the present invention;
 20 Fig. 7 is a partially sectioned and enlarged perspective view of the front end of the barrel in accordance with the present invention;
 Fig. 8 is a partially sectioned and enlarged perspective view of the needle hub in accordance with the present invention;
 25 Figs. 9 and 10 are cross sectional side views showing the movement of the plunger inside the barrel to connect with the needle hub;
 Fig. 11 is a cross sectional side plan view showing the rotation of the plunger to securely connect with the needle hub; and
 30 Fig. 12 is a cross sectional side plan view showing the needle hub together with the needle is pulled backward into the barrel.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0020] With reference to Fig. 6, a syringe in accordance with the present invention has a barrel (1), a plunger (2), a needle hub (3) and a needle (4).

[0021] As shown in Figs. 6 and 7, the barrel (1) defines axially therein a through hole (11) and has a retaining device (110) formed on a front end of the barrel. The retaining device has multiple equally-spaced fingers (111) formed on an inner periphery defining the through hole (11) and troughs (112) each defined between two adjacent fingers (111). Each of the fingers is L shaped hence each of the troughs (112) are also L shaped. The end of the through hole (11) has a tapering (13) of its inner periphery to restrict the plunger (2) from coming out of the barrel (1) easily as the plunger (2) is withdrawn from the barrel (1).

[0022] With reference to Fig. 6 again, the plunger (2) has a neck (21) formed on a front end thereof so as to allow a rubber seal (22) to fit in, a conical head (23) projecting from the neck (21), multiple spatially formed inclined teeth (24), a resilient push rod (25) formed on an

end of the conical head (23) and a flange (26) oppositely formed on the plunger (2) to the resilient push rod (25).

[0023] With reference to Figs. 6 and 8, the needle hub (3) has a conical front end (31), multiple bosses (32) formed on a periphery of the front end (31) to correspond to the troughs (112) of the barrel (1), an axially defined hole (33), a receiving hole (34) defined to communicate with the hole (33), multiple recesses (35) defined in a periphery of the receiving hole (34) to correspond to the inclined teeth (24) and a shoulder (36) defined in the periphery of the receiving hole (34) and above the recesses (35) to correspond to the conical head (23) of the plunger (2). The needle hub (3) is an adapter to hold a needle (4) on its front end (31). A seal ring (37) is mounted on that needle hub (3) to prevent the barrel (1) from leaking.

[0024] The needle (4) comprises a sleeve (41) and a metal tube (42).

[0025] When the syringe of the invention is assembled, the needle hub (3) is inserted into the sleeve (41) of the needle (4) to have an interference fit with the needle (4). Then, the needle hub (3) together with the needle (4) is inserted into the barrel (1) to allow each of the bosses (32) to be received in a corresponding one of the troughs (112) and clamped by the L shaped fingers (111). By doing so, a rotation to the needle hub (3) and the needle (4) has to be implemented so that the bosses (32) are able to be received in the troughs (112). With such an arrangement, the needle hub (3) together with the needle (4) is able to have a secure connection with the barrel (1). A worry that the needle hub (3) and the needle (4) may be pushed inside the barrel (1) while the needle is inserted into the cork (51) of Fig. 3 is avoided. When the syringe in accordance with the present invention is in use, the user inserts the plunger (2) into the barrel (1). Due to the rubber seal (22) securely received in the neck (21) of the plunger (2), the medical solution inside the barrel (1) is able to be completely injected out of the barrel (1).

[0026] With reference to Fig. 9, after the solution is empty inside the barrel (1), the user continuously pushes the plunger (2) to force the conical head (23) and the push rod (25) to extend into the receiving hole (34) and thus allows the resilient push rod (25) to rest inside the inner periphery of the hole (33). When the conical head (23) of the plunger (2) extends into the receiving hole (34), the inclined teeth (24) is received in the recesses (35) and the joint between the neck (21) and the conical head (23) engages the shoulder (36), as shown in Fig. 10.

[0027] Thereafter, with reference to Fig. 11, the user rotates the plunger (2) to allow the engagement between the inclined teeth (24) and the recesses (35) to simultaneously rotate the needle hub (3) to release the limitation of the L shaped fingers (111) to the bosses (32). After the limitation of the fingers (111) to the bosses (32) is released, the engagement of the conical head (23) to the shoulder (36) enables the user to pull the

needle hub (3) together with the needle (4) back into the barrel (1).

[0028] With reference to Fig. 12, when the needle hub (3) together with the needle (4) is pulled back into the barrel (1), the resilient push rod (25) will press against the needle hub (3) together with the needle (4) to offset the alignment of the needle hub (3) together with the needle (4) to the through hole (11) of the barrel (1), such that a reuse to the syringe is impossible.

[0029] When the paramedic personnel mistakenly pushes the plunger (2) to engage the conical head (23) to the shoulder (36) of the needle hub (3), as long as the personnel is not rotating the plunger (2), the personnel can still pull out the plunger (2) to disengage with the needle hub (3) because the actuation of the ratchet device needs the personnel to rotate the plunger (2).

[0030] Another embodiment may show variations of the present invention, such as the multiple equally-spaced fingers (111) formed on the inner periphery defining the through hole (11) may be formed as a ring and received in the through hole (11).

[0031] Even though numerous characteristics and advantages of the present invention have been set forth in the foregoing description, together with details of the structure and function of the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only, and changes may be made in detail, especially in matters of shape, size, and arrangement of parts within the principles of the invention to the full extent indicated by the broad general meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.

Claims

1. A safety syringe comprising:

a barrel having a through hole axially defined therein and a retaining device formed inside a front end of the barrel;

a plunger slidably received in the barrel and having a neck formed on a front end thereof so as to allow a rubber seal to fit in, a conical head projecting from the neck, multiple spatially formed inclined teeth, and a flange oppositely formed on the plunger to conical head;

a needle hub detachably engaged with the barrel and having a conical front end with multiple bosses formed to rotatably correspond to the retaining device of the barrel, an axially defined hole corresponding to and being in communication with the through hole of the barrel, a receiving hole defined to communicate with the hole and the through hole of the barrel and to allow the extension of the conical head of the plunger, multiple recesses defined to receive the inclined teeth and a shoulder defined in a periphery of the receiving hole to correspond to the conical head of the plunger; and

a needle having a sleeve securely engaged with the conical front head of the needle hub and a metal tube securely engaged with the sleeve;

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wherein the bosses are rotatably released from the clamp of the fingers by the engagement of the inclined teeth and the recesses.

2. The syringe as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining device comprises multiple L shaped fingers formed to clamp the bosses and multiple troughs defined to receive the bosses. 10
3. The syringe as claimed in claim 2, wherein a resilient push rod is formed on an end of the conical head to be received in and abutted to an inner periphery of the receiving hole of the needle hub. 15
4. The syringe as claimed in claim 2, wherein the fingers are formed as a ring to be received in the through hole. 20

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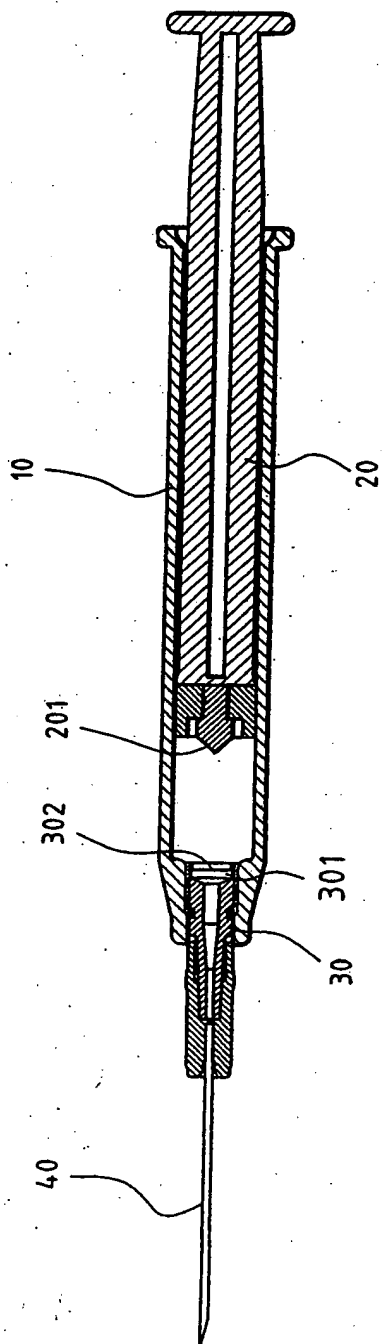


FIG. 1

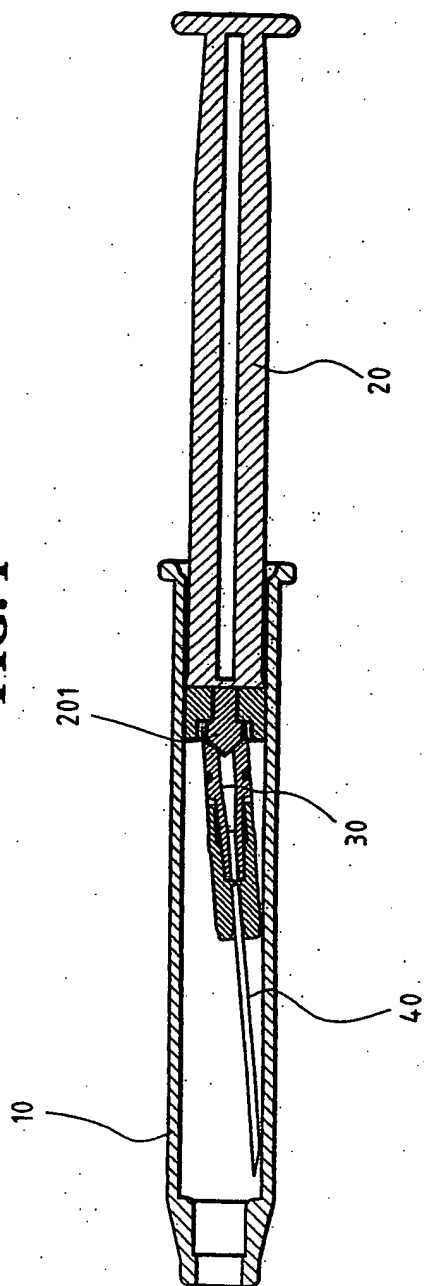


FIG. 2

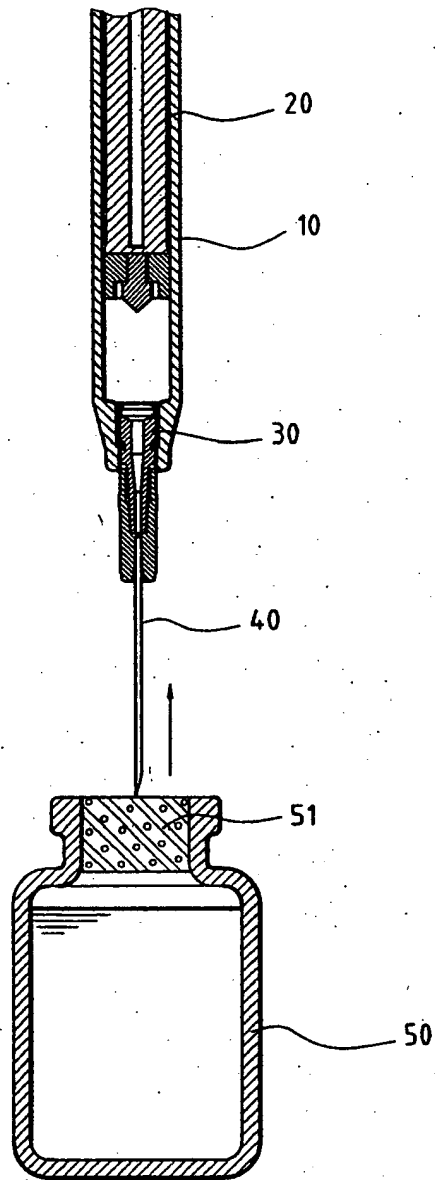


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

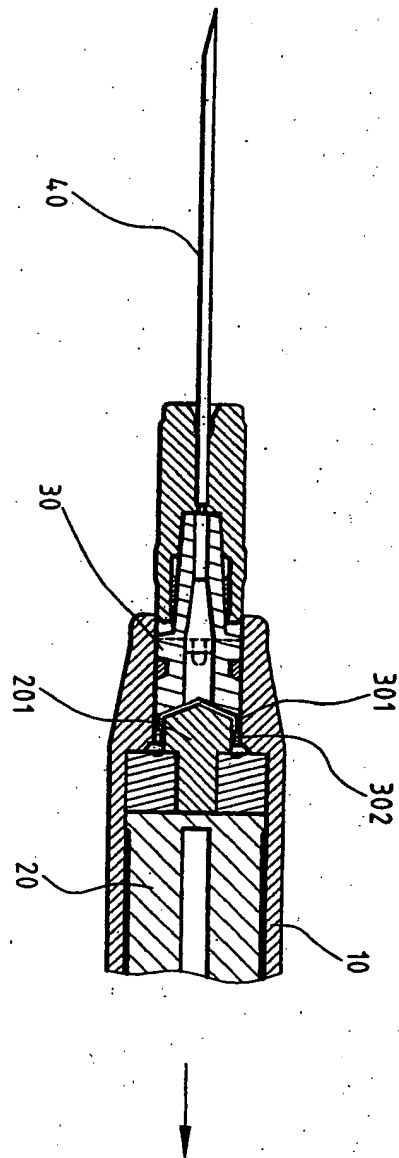
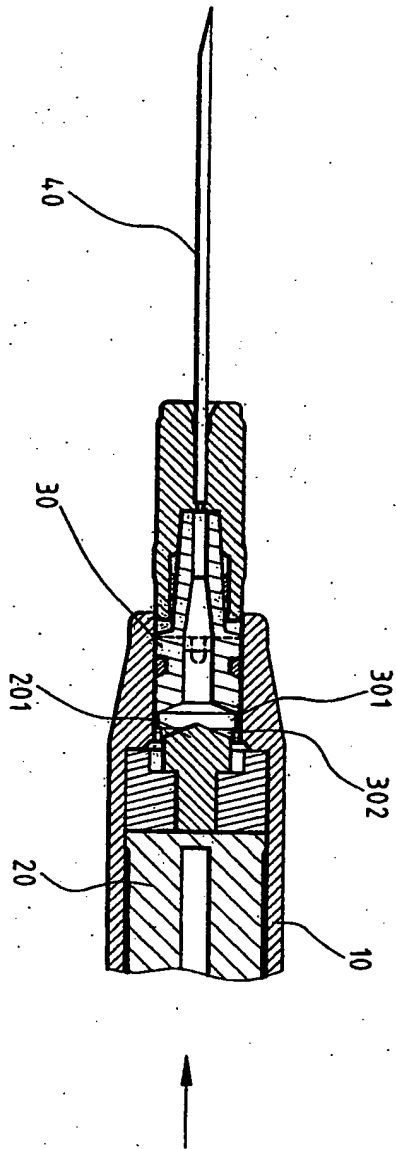


FIG. 5



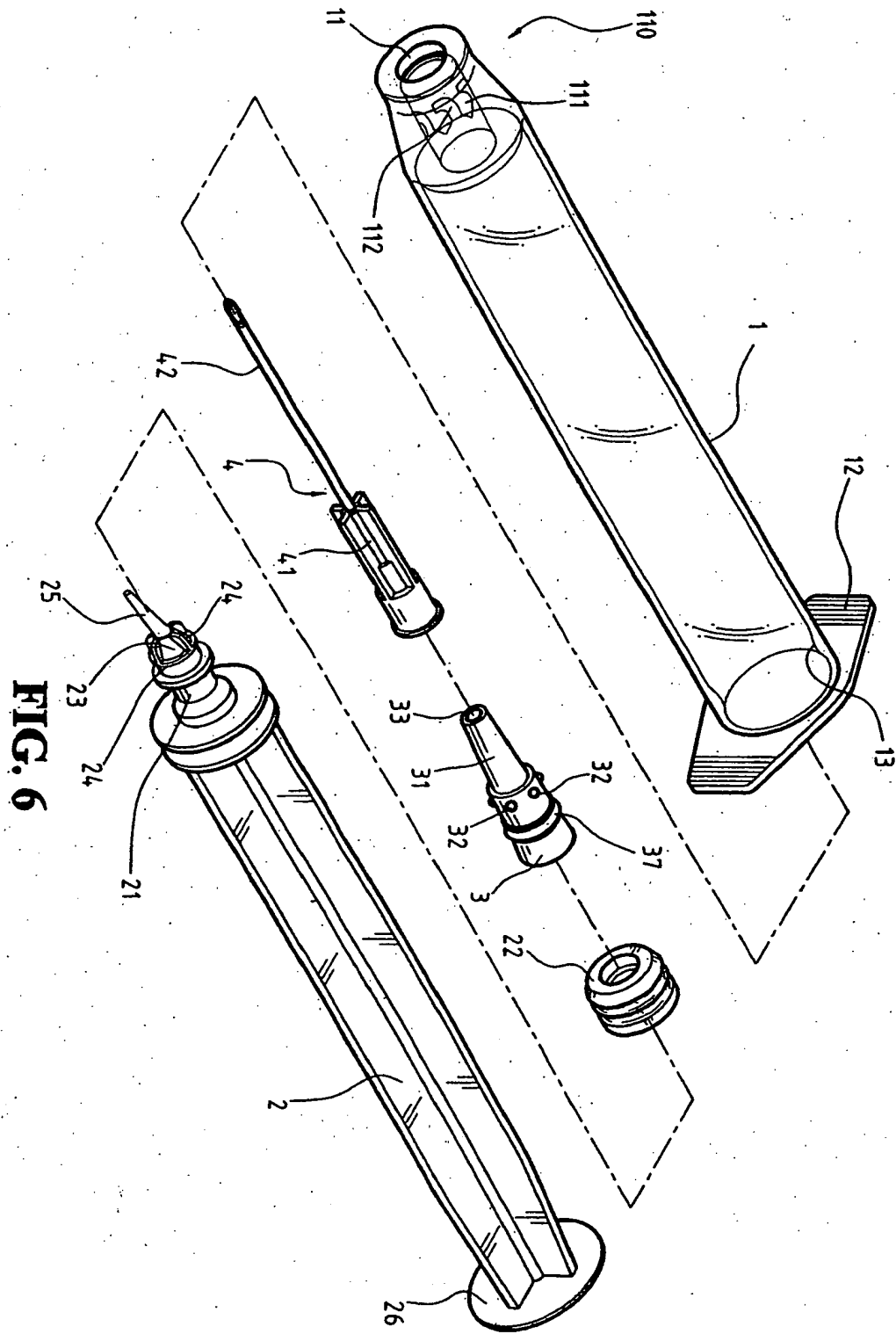


FIG. 6

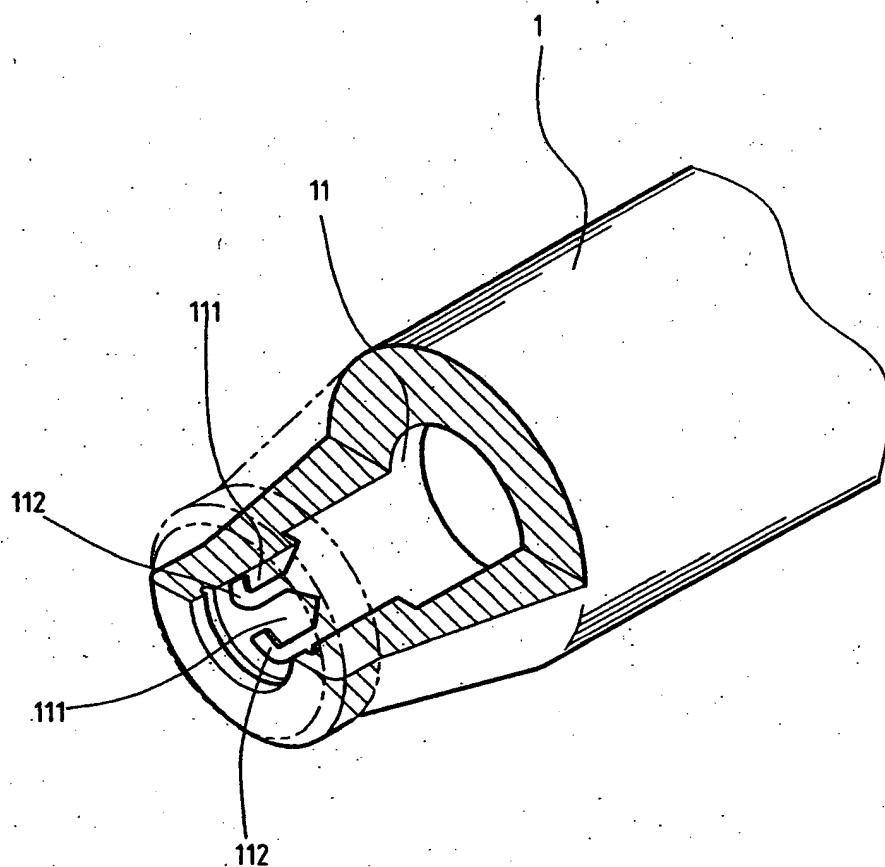


FIG. 7

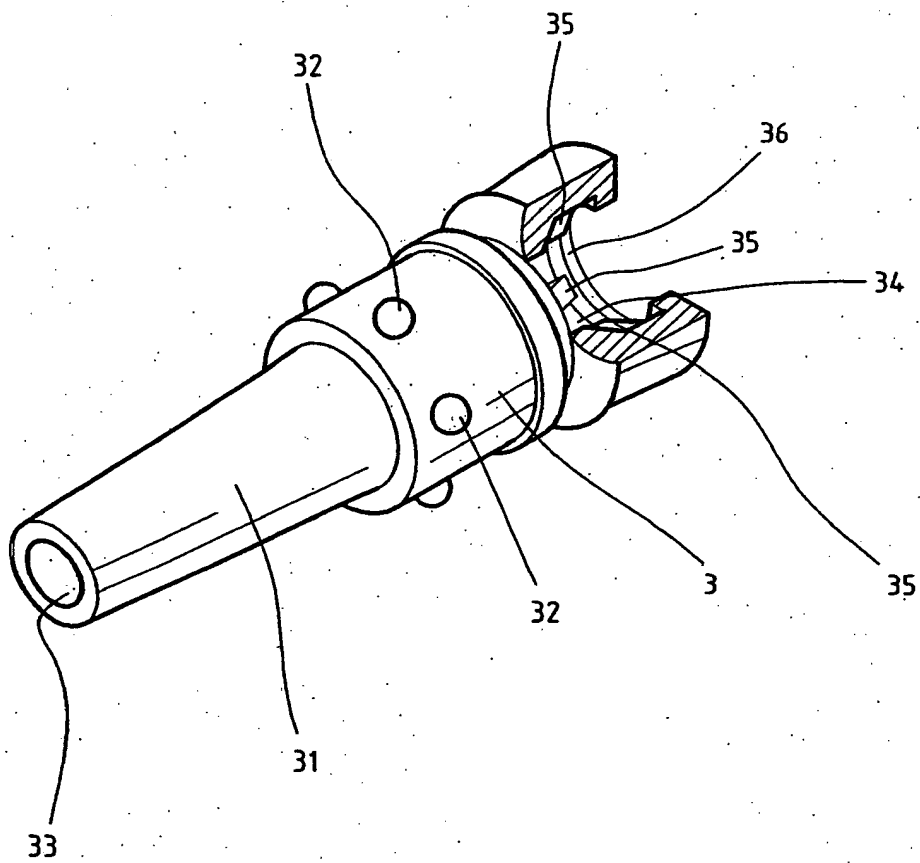


FIG. 8

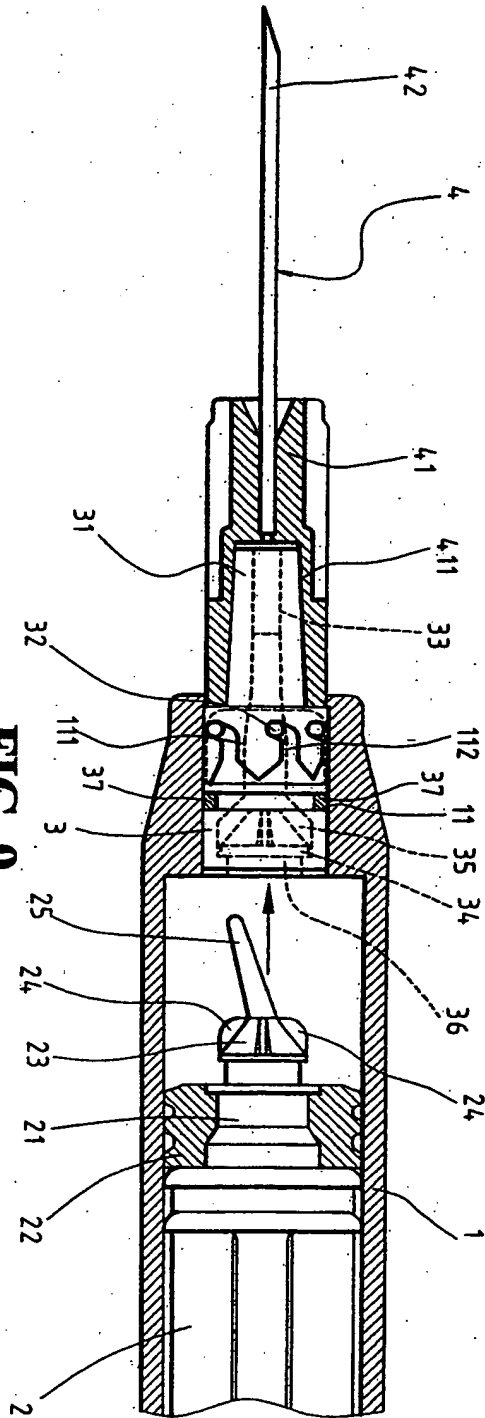


FIG. 9

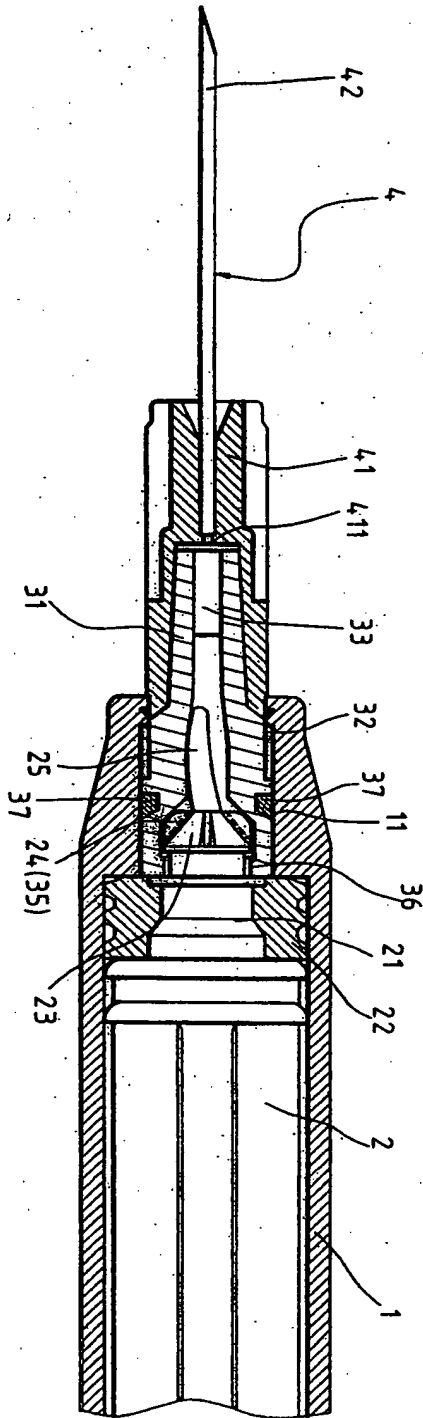


FIG. 10

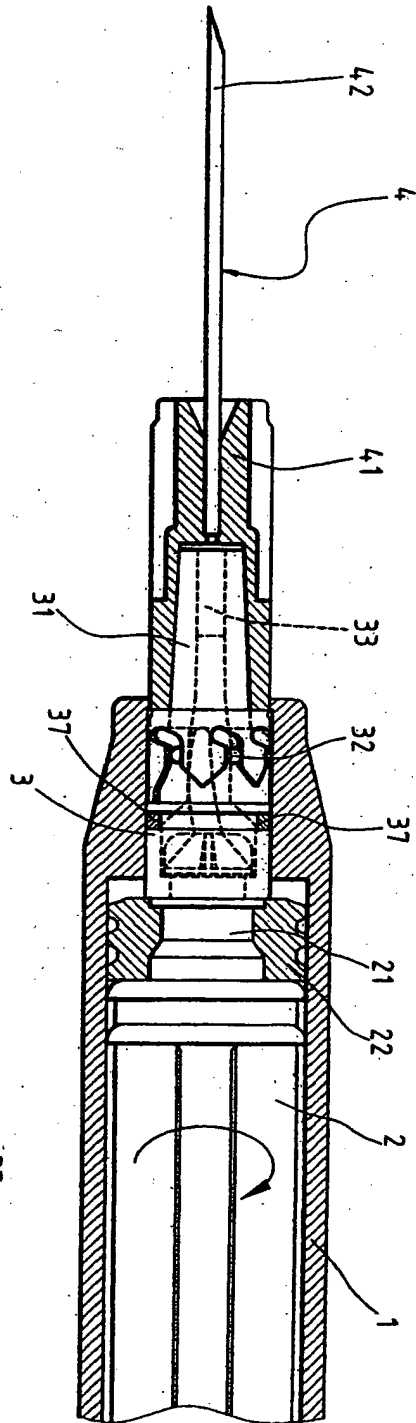


FIG. 11

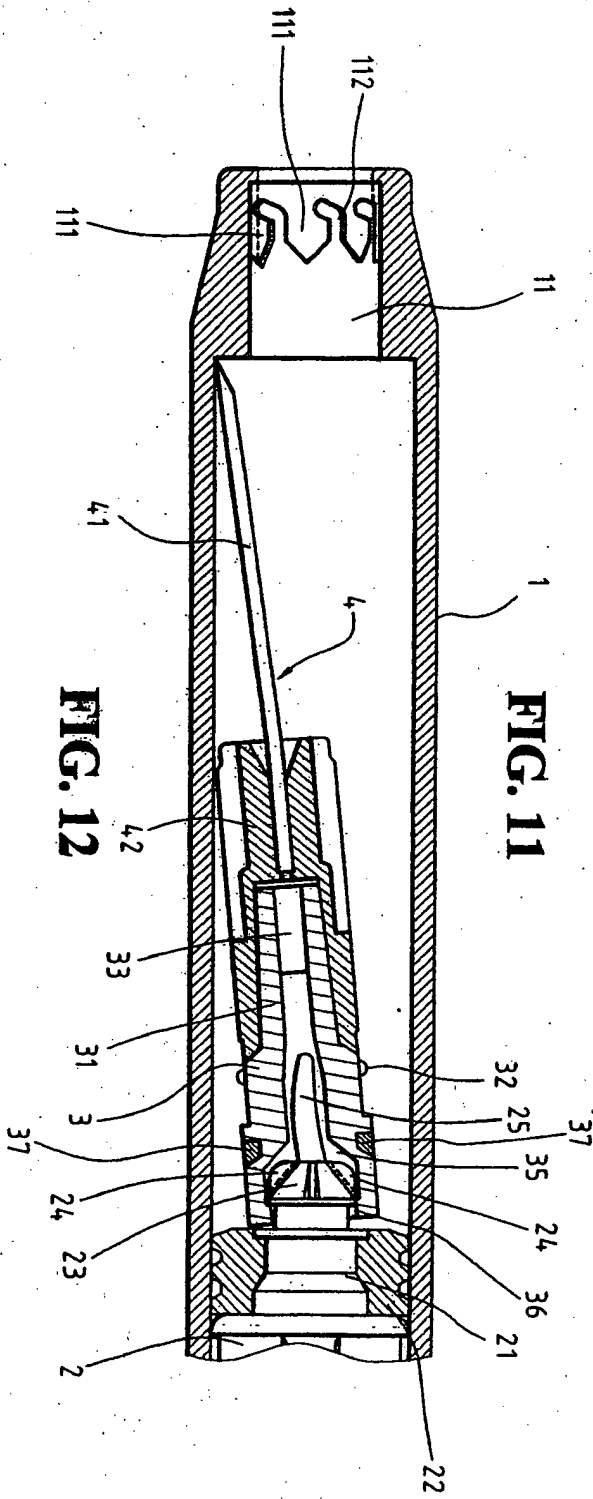


FIG. 12

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 12 8391

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	EP 0 634 183 A (TERUMO CORP) 18 January 1995 (1995-01-18) * column 9, line 12-24; figures 4,5 *	1-4	A61M5/32
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 13 March 2002	Examiner Ceccarelli, D
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